PRINTER RUSH
(PTO ASSISTANCE)

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[RUSH] **MESSAGE:**

(1) Please provide missing Serial numbers on page 1, lines 14 and 16.

(2) Page 4, line 29 should read "Figs. 13a-13n" instead of Figure 13a-13m. Please advise/correct.

Thank you

[XRUSH] **RESPONSE:**

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NOTE: This form will be included as part of the official USPTO record, with the Response document coded as XRUSH.

REV 10/04

PRECONNECTORIZED FIBER OPTIC DROP CABLES AND ASSEMBLIES

RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a Continuation-in-Part of co-pending U.S. Serial No. 10/659,666 filed on Sept. 10, 2003, which is a Divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/967,259 filed on Sept. 28, 2001 now U.S. Pat. No. 6,648,520. The present application is also a Continuation-in-Part of co-pending U.S. Serial No. 10/294,136 filed on Nov. 14, 2002, which is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/645,916 filed on Aug. 25, 2000 now U.S. Pat. No. 6,542,674. The present application is also a Continuation-in-Part of co-pending U.S. Serial No. 10/383,468 filed on March 7, 2003, which is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/579,555 filed on May 26, 2000 now U.S. Pat. No. 6,546,175. The present application is also related to U.S. Pat. App. Serial Nos. 10765434 titled "Preconnectorized Fiber Optic Drop Cables and Assemblies for Efficient Deployment" and 10765262 titled "Figure-Eight Preconnectorized Fiber Optic Drop Cables and Assemblies" filed on even date herewith, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to optical networks. More specifically, the invention relates to preconnectorized fiber optic drop cables and assemblies useful for optical networks that bring fiber to the 'x' location (FTTx) and the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Communication networks are used to transport a variety of signals such as voice, video, data transmission, and the like. Traditional communication networks use copper wires in cables for transporting information and data. However, copper cables have drawbacks because they are large, heavy, and can only transmit a relatively limited amount of data. On the other hand, an optical

Fig. 5 is an exploded view of the preconnectorized fiber optic drop cable of Fig. 4.

Figs. 5a and 5b respectively are a perspective view and a sectional view of the shroud of Fig. 4.

Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the cable taken along line 6-6 as shown in Fig. 4.

Fig. 6a is a perspective view of the cable of Fig. 5 prepared for connectorization.

Fig. 6b is a perspective view of one half-shell of the crimp housing of Fig. 5.

Fig. 6c shows a portion of the connector assembly of Fig. 4 attached to the cable and positioned within the half-shell of Fig. 6b.

Fig 6d shows the partially assembly crimp assembly being attached to the cable.

Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the preconnectorized fiber optic drop cable taken along line 7-7 as shown in Fig. 4.

Fig. 8 is a cross-sectional view of another fiber optic drop cable according to the present invention.

Fig. 9 depicts a portion of a crimp housing that is suitable for the fiber optic drop cable shown in Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of a cable similar to Fig. 8 prepared for connectorization.

Fig. 11 shows a partially assembly crimp assembly being attached to a cable similar to the cable of Fig. 6 having more than one optical waveguide.

Fig. 12 is a perspective view of one half-shell of the crimp housing of Fig. 11.

Figs. 13a-13n depict cross-sectional views of other exemplary fiber optic cables that are suitable for preconnectorization according to the present invention.

Figs. 14a and 14b respectively show the cable of Fig. 13e prepared for connectorization and the same cable during the process of attaching the crimp assembly.